

(CLASSIFICATION)

63-3498

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Action Memorandum No. A-208Date 26 April 1963

TO : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Final Plan for Low-level Reconnaissance of Cuba

REFERENCE:

1. The Director has informed me that the President, at yesterday's meeting at the White House, approved three low-level missions (two aircraft each) on a trial basis after Mr. Harriman had returned from his trip. The Director has instructed me to review this entire matter and develop the three most desirable missions on the basis of highest priority, most important targets on which we have acute intelligence requirements that are unattainable or unverifiable by high-level flights. We will want the most persuasive arguments for establishing these requirements for low-level flights, particularly as to unidentified or unknown targets and construction areas. We should include one of the four combat command camps. Our justification should be specific and should not be based on the need for acquiring technical intelligence or increasing our total inventory of intelligence. We should plan our missions so that the aircraft spend a minimum amount of time over the island.

2. This is to be a CIA paper which I will cable to the Director for his approval prior to submission to the President. It is not a COMOR or NRO paper but you should probably use the JRC flight-planning information (Colonel Steakley) for determining the optimum sorties within the above parameters.

3. This requirement, as you might well imagine, has a considerable degree of urgency. If you or your people need any further information,

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SUSPENSE DATE:

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(CLASSIFICATION)

Ans. by OC1 Channel
cable dated 27 April
(per Cindy, DSI, 5/4)

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please contact me soonest. I would expect the paper could be done entirely "in-house" and it does not require coordination or concurrence outside of the Agency.

/s/ msc/ blp

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Acting Director

MSC:blp

Distribution:

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26 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

1. Attached is a copy of my memorandum to DD/R based on a telephone call I had from the Director last night and his conversation with us this morning. If you have any further inputs, it would be most helpful to Pete Scoville to give them to him.

2. As to Cuba, it was my understanding FitzGerald was to prepare an expansion to his current Cuban-operations paper on a more extreme basis, that a sort of catalogue of possible actions was to be prepared for me, and that in any discussions that might come up, I was to indicate capabilities on a very broad and general basis and to be cosy about details.

3. When I receive back from the Director his proposed changes on his Cuban-policy paper, I am to bootleg a copy to Mac Bundy and McNamara. I intend to do this by hand, without any covering letter, and indicate clearly to them that it is for their information and is not being put forward as an Agency or DCI formal paper, and that no further circulation is being given to it.

4. The Director wanted our deception people to concentrate on misinformation or disinformation or deception which would assist Although he suggested that a group be organized in SAS, I am sure he would be perfectly happy if Cord Meyer's people continued in this field.

5. I have informed Bundy about the Stennis Subcommittee report, our inability to get any further information from Keating as to his sources, and the impossibility of getting toothpaste back into the tube once it has been squeezed out.

A/ MSC/blp
 Marshall S. Carter
 Lieutenant General, USA
 Acting Director

Attachment:

Action Memo No. A-208

MSC:blp

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